

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. The Examiner has objected to the specification. Applicant has amended page 1, line 4 and page 7, line 2 to overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification.

Claim 33 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 33 has been canceled.

Claims 19 and 24 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Application has amended claim 19 to be dependent upon claim 18 and amended claim 24 to be dependent upon claim 22. The foregoing overcomes the Examiner's rejection.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 21-23 and 25-32 are allowed.

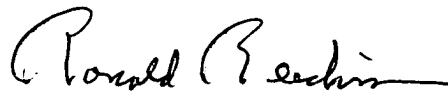
The Examiner has indicated that claims 9-12, 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

Claims 9-12 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2 and 13 have been amended to be dependent on claim 9 and claim 24 has been amended to be dependent on claim 22. Thus, claims 2, 13 and 24 should be allowable. Claims 14-20 are dependent on allowed claims. Thus, claims 2, 9-18 and 24 are patentable.

In view of the above, claims 2 and 9-32 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions, the resolution of which the Examiner believes would be advanced with

a telephone conversation with Applicant's attorney, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald Reichman
Reg. No. 26,796
Attorney of Record
Telephone (203) 924-3854

PITNEY BOWES INC.
Intellectual Property and
Technology Law Department
35 Waterview Drive
P.O. Box 3000
Shelton, CT 06484-8000

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

on January 10, 2000
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin
Name of ~~Registered~~ Rep.


Signature

January 10, 2000
Date

